

causes like the United Way, St. Mary's Hospital, Mesa State College, First United Methodist Church and the Grand Junction Rotary Club. "We asked community leaders all over town who they would nominate for this award, and Herb Bacon topped almost every one of their lists," said Kristy McFarland, the project director for the Civic Forum, in a recent Daily Sentinel article.

The foundation was formed in memory of Herb's parents E.L. and Oma Bacon and his brother and sister-in-law LeRoy and Wilma Bacon. Helping others is in their blood. It has been part of their family's values for generations. Three generations of the Bacon family are involved with the foundation, including the grandchildren of Herb and Laura May. "Families have the ability to leave a legacy no matter what their station in life. It's important to remember that they have an obligation to leave the world a little better than how they found it," Herb said in eloquent terms.

Mr. Speaker, for years the Bacon family has been making our community a better place to live, and for that I want this Congress to say thank you for all that they do. These great Americans have left an indelible mark on their community and for that, Mr. Speaker, the Grand Valley is grateful.

COMMEMORATING ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as I have every year at this time, in a proud but solemn tradition to remember and pay tribute to the victims of one of history's worst crimes against humanity, the Armenian genocide of 1915 to 1923.

In 1915, 1.5 million women, children, and men were killed, and 500,000 Armenians were forcibly deported by the Ottoman Empire during an eight year reign of brutal repression. Armenians were deprived of their homes, their dignity, and ultimately their lives.

Yet, America, the greatest democracy in the world, has not made an official statement regarding the Armenian genocide and it is my hope that the Congress will have the courage to bring the resolution to the floor of the House for a vote.

It's fundamental that we learn from our past and never let this kind of tragedy happen again. Opponents have argued that passage of a resolution would severely jeopardize U.S.-Turkey relations.

A resolution is not an indictment of the current Turkish government nor is it a condemnation of any former leader of Turkey. The United States and Turkey can and will be able to continue its partnership should the Congress adopt this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, as the only Member of Congress of Armenian and Assyrian descent, I am very proud of my heritage. Like many Armenians, I learned from my grandparents of the hardship and suffering endured by so many at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. That is how I came to this understanding and this knowledge and why I bring this story to the House of Representatives.

I am very proud of the contributions which the Armenian people have made to our great Nation. They've distinguished themselves in the arts, in law, in academics, in every walk of life and they continue today to make significant contributions in communities across our country today.

It's essential to not only publicly acknowledge what happened, but also understand that we are teaching present and future generations about the Armenian Genocide.

We need to bring this legislation to enlighten our young people and to remind ourselves that wherever anything like this occurs around the globe that we, as Members of the United States Congress, and as citizens of this great Nation, must raise our voices.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ADVOCACY AND FELLOWSHIP FOR PEOPLE WITH BLINDNESS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a outstanding organization in the sixth district that has been dedicated to promoting fellowship among the blind and visually impaired in the community for fifty years.

In 1951, a small group of about half a dozen people with blindness or visual impairment met to form the Monmouth County Association of the Blind. That same year, a building at the corner of Belmar Boulevard and Allenwood Road was purchased to serve as the home base of operations and named the Clubhouse of the Association. Twenty years later, in 1971, the Association was formally incorporated and recently received non-profit status.

The Association has several goals all of which are interconnected: to bring together the blind and visually impaired adult residents of the county to work, to promote equity within our society for the blind or visually impaired, to heighten awareness of legislative action pertaining to blindness or visual impairments, and to create a sense of community and increase sociability among members.

Currently, the Association offers training in computer skills and also provides Braille lessons, training in daily living skills, and self help discussion sessions, in addition to educational and informational sessions on services and programs available to members. To help foster this, the Association works in tandem with the New Jersey Commission for the Blind, along with other New Jersey organizations in the field of blindness.

During the past fifty years, the Monmouth County Association for the Blind has helped hundreds of people with blindness or visual impairment to enjoy a higher standard of living. The Association has also played a key role in improving the understanding of the public on treating and helping those who are blind or visually impaired in a positive and helpful manner. As the senior population swells, we will continue to see an increasing amount of blind or visually impaired seniors, bringing new challenges. Thankfully, the Monmouth County Association for the Blind seems well prepared.

It is my sincere hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring the Monmouth County Association for the Blind for their service to the blind, the visually impaired, and the general public.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION RELATIVE TO THE REPEAL OF THE SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT AND RELATED PORTIONS OF THE US CODE (APRIL 26, 2001)

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to repeal the Selective Service Act and related parts of the US Code. Also, I am placing the attached article from the Taipei Times in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I fear that this source is not widely read among many in this body or our nation, so I am hopeful this action will serve to bring this letter to a much wider audience. The person who writes this letter is a law student in Taiwan. His arguments against conscription are similar to those offered by people in the United States who oppose the draft. The student argues that conscription is a violation of civil liberties, a costly and ineffective system that harms society and the economy as well as the rights of the individual conscripted, and a system that harms national defense rather than helping it. While we do not currently have conscription in the US we do have draft registration and each argument against the draft is equally applicable to our current selective service system and the registration requirement. I urge my colleagues to seriously consider the arguments against conscription raised in this article and cosponsor my legislation to repeal the Selective Service Act.

[Taipei Times on line edition, Thurs. Apr. 26, 2001]

CONSCRIPTION IS HARMING TAIWAN

By Chang Yung-chien

Some time ago, the media reported on would-be conscripts scrambling to grab a place in the "alternative service" to military conscription. There is now an uproar over President Chen Shul-blan's future son-in-law, who escaped doing his term of military service because he had gout. The issue of military service has again struck a sensitive chord in Taiwan's society.

Why do so many people feel disgruntled?

This writer has always advocated a volunteer military recruitment system. But this seems to be a politically incorrect view in a country that faces external threats. The difficulty of getting enough recruits and the increased burden that would be imposed on government coffers are the usual reasons given against a volunteer system. I find these reasons totally incomprehensible.

Military recruitment is a public policy matter. It needs to undergo an analysis for cost-effectiveness. Why do we have "reserve officers" and "alternative service" systems?

We have them precisely so that skilled people can be more valuable for the country if they are pulled out from the ranks to serve as platoon leaders or as cheap labor for high-tech companies. Once this point is clear, then the alternative service system will seem quite strange. Someone with a PhD in electrical engineering would be working in a high-tech company anyway if he were not